

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 to 31 (Canceled).

32 (Original). A tool for applying an implantation force to a fastener sized and configured for implantation in tissue in response to an implantation force applied according to prescribed conditions, the tool comprising

a tool body,

a driven member carried by the tool body and being operable to apply the implantation force,

a mechanism on the driven member to couple the fastener to the driven member to transfer the implantation force from the driven member to the fastener,

a controller coupled to the driven member, the controller including an initial phase operating the driven member to apply the implantation force under conditions than are short of the prescribed conditions, a lull phase commencing at the end of the initial phase interrupting operation of the driven member, a final phase operating the driven member under conditions that supplement the conditions of the initial phase to achieve the prescribed conditions, the controller requiring, after the initial phase, a prescribed command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase.

33 (Original). An assembly according to claim 32

wherein the prescribed command is based, at least in part, upon input from an operator.

34 (Original). An assembly according to claim 32

wherein the prescribed command is based, at least in part, upon input reflecting a sensed operating condition.

35 (Original). An assembly according to claim 32

wherein the driven member is also operable to apply a removal force to withdraw the fastener from tissue, and

wherein the controller includes a removal phase operating the driven member to apply the removal force, the controller requiring, after the initial phase, a different prescribed command to advance from the lull phase to the removal phase.

36 (Original). An assembly according to claim 35

wherein the driven member is rotated in one direction to apply the implantation force and rotated in an opposite direction to apply the removal force.

37 (Withdrawn). An assembly according to claim 32 further including an element tethering the fastener to the tool body, the element including a frangible portion.

38(Original). An assembly according to claim 32 wherein the tool body includes a tube that carries the driven member.

39 (Original). An assembly according to claim 32 wherein the driven member is rotated to apply the implantation force.

Claims 40 to 43 (Canceled)

44 (Original). A method for implanting a fastener in tissue comprising the steps of providing a tool as defined in claim 32, coupling a fastener to the driven member, accessing a tissue region, operating the driven member during the initial phase to partially implant the fastener in the tissue region,

deciding during the lull phase to commence the final phase, entering the prescribed command to advance from the lull phase to the final phase, thereby completing the implantation of the fastener in the tissue region.

Claims 45 to 47 (Canceled)